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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION: OFFICE TREATMENT OF NAMES

Summary of activities of the Quebec Commission on Toponymy, 1987-1992

Paper submitted by Canada**

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** Prepared by the Quebec Commission on Toponymy.

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Summary

The Commission's terms of reference concern the management of the geographical nomenclature of Quebec. Accordingly, the cataloguing, processing, standardization, official acceptance, dissemination and retention of Québécois place names, and the establishment of criteria for adopting and rules for spelling place names, lie within its mandate. It is also required to give its views on any question concerning toponymy which is submitted to it by the Government, and may likewise express such views on its own initiative.

During the past five years (April 1987 to March 1992), the Commission on Toponymy officially accepted 32,292 Québécois place names, including 12,366 toponyms and 19,926 odonyms (names of thoroughfares). In response to the wishes of various sociocultural groups, the Commission developed a specific programme of giving commemorative names to geographical locations. Since April 1987, the Commission has assigned such commemorative names to 78 locations.

The publication in 1990 of the second revised and expanded edition of the Guide toponymique du Québéc was the highlight of the past five years. Two projects to which priority has been assigned are the Dictionnaire illustré des noms de lieux du Québéc and the updating of the computerized data management system for toponyms known as TOPOS.